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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Juichi **Takahara** (Japan)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 2. General Assembly affairs and conference services

1. At its 26th and 27th meetings, on 22 June 1999, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (A/54/6 (Sect. 2)).

2. The budget section was introduced by the representative of the Secretary-General who responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Satisfaction was expressed with the accomplishments achieved after the restructuring of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services at the end of 1997. The view was further expressed that the restructuring of the Department made the usage of conference services, facilities and resources more cost-effective.

4. The importance of the activities under General Assembly affairs and conference services was stressed. It was noted that the human resource levels had been stable in the face of increased workloads. It was also noted that while the workload was increasing, as reflected in the workload statistics presented, the overall level of resources has been significantly reduced. Concern was expressed that those factors would likely have a negative effect on the timeliness and quality of the conference services provided, which, as also noted, already required improvement. It was felt that an evaluation of the workload should be carried out in the rationalization of the level of resources.

5. The introduction of new technologies in the work of the Department was welcomed, but with the qualification that it should not compromise the quality of services. It was noted that remote translation and interpretation should be properly evaluated and tested to ensure that a high standard of quality and delivery was maintained. A view was expressed that remote interpretation should first be approved by the General Assembly before it was put to use and should be used only for special conferences. The view was expressed that more emphasis should be added to the narrative in the overview regarding the increasing activities

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of the Economic and Social Council and that mention of the maintenance of the Council Web site was missing from the list of outputs of subprogramme 3.

6. It was pointed out that there was inequitable treatment of conference services in the various duty stations. The view was expressed that conference services in Nairobi should be treated in the same manner as conference services in New York, Geneva and Vienna and that it should have been included in the budget section. Concern was also expressed over the levels of self-revision of translation. It was noted that an increase in the use of temporary assistance and ad hoc contractual services to provide translation would increase the need for revision and that it could be difficult to meet that need with the current permanent staffing levels. The view was also expressed that greater reliance on outsourcing of translation services would require adjustment of the grade structure of staffing to provide for more revision work at the senior levels. It was also noted that the interpretation service in Vienna did not enjoy a full complement of permanent staff, resulting in greater reliance on the more expensive temporary assistance. Concern was expressed that the quality of translation and interpretation needed to be improved. Serious concern was expressed about the quality of translation of documentation in Spanish at Vienna.

7. On the subject of the cost-accounting system, the issue was raised as to the availability of in-house expertise in that area so that there would be no need to use external consultants for that project and, consequently, effect some savings for the Organization. With regard to the control and limitation of documentation, a question was raised as to whether the number of documents could be reduced.

8. It was observed that a number of mandates still had to be translated into activities in the programme of work. It was further observed that the description of activities in the budget fascicle did not clearly reflect what was to be achieved or accomplished.

9. It was noted that expected accomplishments had not been included in the budget section. It was further stated that it would have been feasible to include those accomplishments. It was also noted that it was difficult to identify expected accomplishments owing to the complexity and the nature of the work carried out under the budget section.

10. The view was expressed that programme managers needed to implement more fully the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, which require self-evaluation and identification of activities that are inefficient, ineffective and irrelevant.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee endorsed the programme narrative of section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, and decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it be approved with the following modifications:

(a) New paragraph 2.35 *bis* should be added after paragraph 2.35 and the remaining paragraphs renumbered accordingly:

> **"2.35 *bis*. The Division will also conduct consultations and coordinate the assignment of responsibilities for the implementation of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions and follow up to ensure timely action by relevant bodies."**

(b) At the end of paragraph 2.46 (c) (i) before the word "coordination", the word "and" should be deleted, and after the phrase "meetings away from Headquarters", the phrase "and consultation and coordination for the assignment of responsibilities for the implementation of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions" should be added;

(c) In paragraph 2.46 (c) (ii), after the words "limitation of documentation;", the phrase, "compliance with resolution 53/208 B on format of reports;" should be added.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Juichi **Takahara** (Japan)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 3. Political affairs

1. At its 27th and 28th meetings, on 22 June 1999, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was given to the activities undertaken by the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. The importance of the functions of the programme, namely the prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, including post-conflict peace-building, was reiterated. It was agreed that preventive diplomacy and peacemaking was the most cost-effective way by which the Organization could contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. The view was expressed that efforts should be focused, therefore, on preventive diplomacy in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations to avoid the escalating of conflicts to a level that would require the establishment of peacekeeping operations. Support was expressed for the work of the Electoral Assistance Division whose activities were undertaken at the specific request of Member States in their efforts to establish and strengthen electoral institutions and processes, incorporating the broader concept of good governance.

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4. Concern was also expressed that one of the overall objectives of the programme, namely, the promotion of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions, as described in paragraph 1.1 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001,[1] was not reflected in the overview of the budget section. The importance of accurate reflection of the medium-term plan was stressed.

5. Satisfaction was expressed with the inclusion of provisions for special political missions in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001. It was noted that resources for such missions previously included in the budget section for peacekeeping operations were now reflected in section 3, and that such activities were the responsibility of the Department of Political Affairs, as consistent with the provisions of programme 1, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan.

6. The view was expressed with satisfaction that expected accomplishments were included. It was observed that further thought needed to be given to the measurement of a number of expected accomplishments. The view was also expressed that some activities of this section might not be measurable and, consequently, it would not be possible to determine the expected accomplishments. The view was expressed that the accomplishments should be specific enough to facilitate objective assessment at the end of the biennium. In this connection, the view was expressed that the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation should be implemented with respect to the requirement that activities should be systematically evaluated to determine their relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact in relation to their objectives. The efforts made to incorporate a gender perspective in the Department's data-collection, research and analysis activities were welcomed.

7. A view was expressed with concern on the use of extrabudgetary resources to finance some activities that should be funded from the regular budget.

8. A view was expressed with concern on the relationship between the Department of Political Affairs and some human rights organizations.

Conclusion and recommendations

9. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001, subject to the following modifications:

(a) After the first sentence of paragraph 3.6, insert the following sentence: "A case in point is the promotion of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions";

(b) In subparagraph 3.37 (c) (i), *replace* Participation in the activities of *with* Maintain contacts for exchanges of information with.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/53/6/Rev.1).

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Rapporteur: Mr. Juichi **Takahara** (Japan)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 4. Disarmament

1. At its 28th meeting, on 22 June 1999, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the document.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the newly re-established Department for Disarmament Affairs, and for its reorganization to respond more effectively to its mandates. Note was taken of the general orientation of the programme of work. However, views were expressed that the narrative part of the section on disarmament did not accurately reflect the narrative of the programme budget for 1998–1999, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997. Furthermore, in some instances, the narrative was not in full compliance with the mandates contained in the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/207 of 18 December 1998. Also, in one view, full support was expressed for the narrative part of the proposed budget section on disarmament.

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4. The view was expressed that the overview, programme of work and expected accomplishments sections did not fully comply with the mandate contained in the medium-term plan, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/207, and that the Secretariat should comply with the approved mandates to facilitate the work of intergovernmental and expert bodies.

5. The view was expressed that the reference to exchange of information in paragraph 4.3 was also not in conformity with provisions of the medium-term plan. The Department is mandated to provide information on United Nations activities in disarmament not the exchange of information.

6. It was observed that the thrust of paragraph 4.13 was to assume a new role for the Department in creating new legal and political norms and a central role in the field of disarmament. Whereas this is the prerogative of the relevant intergovernmental bodies, the adherence to disarmament treaties was the sovereign right and prerogative of Member States, and the Secretariat had no role to perform in that regard.

7. Clarification was requested concerning the mandate of the activity proposed in paragraph 4.17 (c) (ii).

8. Views were expressed that the programme of work showed a certain imbalance; activities such as those related to biological and bacteriological weapons were overemphasized, while work in the field of nuclear weapons was not given the level of importance that it deserved. Appreciation was expressed for the importance given to the work in the area of conventional arms.

9. Support was given for the revitalization of the regional centres in Africa, Asia and Latin America and appreciation was expressed for the efforts made by the Department to pursue regional solutions to regional problems. However, it was emphasized that efforts should be intensified to ensure the cost-effectiveness of the centres and to seek adequate levels of extrabudgetary resources to fund their operation.

10. It was observed that paragraph 4.17 (d) (ii) distorted the mandate in the medium-term plan, as the medium-term plan did not give the regional centres any mandate to promote wider adherence to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

11. It was pointed out that a number of recent developments might have a negative impact on the question of disarmament. Such developments included issues related to the development of missile defence systems and conventional weapons, the strengthening of military alliances and the militarization of outer space. Views were expressed that the work on disarmament should also address such issues.

12. The view was expressed that the mandate for the role of Department for Disarmament Affairs in illegitimate use of small arms needed clarification. How would the Department for Disarmament Affairs determine what was legitimate and what was illegitimate?

13. It was noted that the entire fascicle seemed to be obsessed with weapons of mass destruction. Such weapons include chemical weapons, biological weapons and nuclear weapons. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons deals with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction comprehensively and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction deals with biological weapons, negotiations for the strengthening of which are under way in Geneva. There has been no progress in the area of nuclear disarmament. Given this backdrop, the role of the Department for Disarmament Affairs in the area of weapons of mass destruction was questioned.

14. The view was expressed that the branches established by the Department for Disarmament Affairs were not in conformity with the decision of the General Assembly in section III, paragraph 28 of its resolution 52/220, and the need for full compliance with Assembly resolutions and decisions was emphasized.

15. The inclusion of the paragraph on expected accomplishments for the biennium was welcomed, but views were expressed that further refinement was needed. In particular, it was questioned if some of the expected accomplishments, as formulated and proposed, could be effectively measured.

16. The role of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and its subsidiary bodies, as the single multilateral negotiating forum of the international community in the field of disarmament was emphasized. In this context, the view was expressed that the role of the Department for Disarmament Affairs should not result in a duplication of activities of the Conference on Disarmament.

17. The following modifications to the programme narrative of section 4 were proposed:

(a) Reference to activities related to the Disarmament Commission should be included;

(b) In the third sentence of paragraph 4.2, the words "the existence and" should be inserted before "the spread of weapons of mass destruction.";

(c) In paragraph 4.2, the third sentence should read:

"Following the end of cold war, the United Nations has been called upon to take up new challenges and tasks as a result of the growing threat from the existence of large stockpiles of nuclear weapons, proposals for ballistic missile defences and the weaponization of outer space, the lack of progress in the field of disarmament, the spread of weapons of mass destruction and the development and use of advanced and sophisticated conventional arms";

(d) The last sentence of paragraph 4.2 should be deleted;

(e) In paragraph 4.3, the second sentence should be replaced with:

"It will address issues of negative developments in the international situation in the field of disarmament, in particular the expansion and strengthening of military alliances and the prospect of the weaponization of outer space. It will also address issues of development of missile defence systems and conventional disarmament, including sophisticated conventional weapons, small arms, light weapons and landmines, as well as practical disarmament measures.";

(f) In the first line of paragraph 4.3, the words "creating and" should be inserted before "promoting";

(g) At the end of the second sentence of paragraph 4.3, the words "in the post-conflict situation" should be added;

(h) Paragraph 4.3 should be redrafted as follows:

"In the coming biennium, the Department will continue to focus on nuclear disarmament. It will address the issues of the weaponization of outer space, the development of missile defences, conventional disarmament, including small arms, light weapons, landmines, advanced sophisticated weapons, as well as all practical disarmament measures in post-conflict situations. It will expand its outreach activities, including its databases, to ensure the provision of impartial, factual information on

the disarmament efforts of the United Nations to Member States, parliamentarians, research and academic institutions, and specialized non-governmental organizations.";

(i) In paragraph 4.4, the reference to the Security Council should be deleted;

(j) In the first sentence of paragraph 4.5, after the words "weapons of mass

(k) In paragraph 4.5, line 2, after the phrase "derived from the General Assembly in the areas of", the phrase "weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms" should be replaced by the words "disarmament and arms limitation, especially with regard to nuclear disarmament";

(l) In paragraph 4.11, all the text after the first sentence (ending with "and other militarily significant States") should be replaced by the following:

"In 1998, it decided to establish an ad hoc committee to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as an ad hoc committee to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. It also recommended that they be re-established at the beginning of 1999. The Conference is currently engaged in a comprehensive review of its agenda in order to make it conform to the new international political and security environment. It is also exploring ways and means of addressing the issue of nuclear disarmament. The Conference is expected to discuss a ban on the transfer of anti-personnel landmines to complement the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. It is also expected to continue its efforts in the promotion of transparency in armaments and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.";

(m) In paragraph 4.11, the following changes should be made:

(i) The second sentence should read:

"In 1998, the Conference on Disarmament decided to establish two ad hoc committees to start negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty and on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons";

(ii) The third and fourth sentences of the same paragraph should read:

"The Conference is currently engaged in a comprehensive review of its agenda in order to make it conform to the new international political and security environment, so it is exploring ways and means of addressing the issue of nuclear weapons";

(iii) In the fifth sentence of the paragraph, the words "transfer of" before the words "anti-personnel landmines" should be deleted; and the words "to complement the recently concluded Ottawa Convention" should be deleted after the words "anti-personnel landmines";

(n) Paragraph 4.13 should be redrafted to read:

"During the biennium 2000–2001, the following objectives will be pursued: to provide organizational and substantive secretariat support at Geneva and substantive secretariat support at Headquarters to multilateral bodies entrusted with deliberation and/or negotiations on disarmament issues; to promote expertise in the field of arms limitation and disarmament in more Member States, particularly in the developing

countries, and to foster a better understanding of the particular concerns of Member States in the field of international security and disarmament; to assist Member States and States parties in effectively implementing multilateral disarmament agreements; to monitor and analyse developments and trends with regard to weapons of mass destruction in all their aspects, including the questions relating to the weaponization of outer space and ballistic missile defence, and to develop a database accessible to all Member States, with a view to assisting the Secretary-General and Member States in identifying areas for which solutions and approaches are to be formulated; to assist Member States in developing and implementing projects of practical disarmament and to project the United Nations central role in curbing excessive small arms proliferation and illicit arms traffic; to monitor developments and trends with a view to strengthening the advisory capacity of the Department, including that of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, to strengthen the outreach programme and to promote the exchange of ideas between the United Nations and academic and research institutes; to facilitate the reporting of States parties to the Ottawa Convention with respect to article 7 (transparency measures) and the implementation of article 8 (facilitation and clarification of compliance); to coordinate disarmament activities and initiatives at the regional and subregional levels; and to provide impartial, factual information on disarmament matters to the Member States.";

(o) In paragraph 4.13, line 12, the word "greater" should be deleted before the word "transparency"; and the words "facilitation of" should be inserted before the words "wider participation";

(p) In paragraph 4.13:

(i) In the fourth objective (line 7), the words "fully and" should be added before the word "effectively", and (lines 8–9), the words "in particular nuclear disarmament" should be added after the words "in the field of weapons of mass destruction";

(ii) At the end of the fifth objective (line 12), after the word "formulated", the words "to promote and facilitate the exchange of information, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes among members of existing multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation treaties" should be added;

(iii) In the sixth objective (line 12), the words "transparency in the field of conventional arms through" should be replaced by the words "transparency in armament through the expansion of the register to mass destruction weapons and small arms";

(q) In the third sentence of paragraph 4.15, the phrase "fought mostly with small arms" should be deleted;

(r) In paragraph 4.16, lines 7 and 8 should read:

"of Member States of new trends and developments on specific issues in the field of weapons of mass destruction as well as missile defence systems; facilitation of participation in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the";

(s) In paragraph 4.16, line 10, the phrase "advanced and sophisticated conventional weapons," should be inserted after the words "illegitimate use of";

(t) In paragraph 4.16:

(i) In line 3, after the words "disarmament agreements", the words "promoting the full and effective implementation of all existing multilateral disarmament treaties and fostering their universality" should be added;

(ii) In line 6, after the words "weapons of mass destruction", the words "particularly nuclear weapons" should be inserted;

(iii) In line 7, after the words "mass destruction", the words "weapons, especially nuclear weapons" should be inserted;

(iv) In line 8, the words "Register of Conventional Arms" should be replaced by the words "arms register";

(v) In line 11, after the words "involvement of NGOs in promoting", the words "the international disarmament and arms control activities including" should be inserted;

(u) In paragraph 4.16, line 5, the word "negotiations" should be replaced by the words "negotiations/deliberations"; in line 6, after the phrase "weapons of mass destruction", the words "especially nuclear disarmament; provide assistance in the" should be inserted; in line 7, after the phrase "on specific issues in the field of", the words "mass destruction" should be replaced by "disarmament and the development of sophisticated and advanced conventional weapons";

(v) Paragraph 4.19 should be deleted;

(w) A new paragraph should be inserted, reading:

"The Committee noted the role of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva as the single multilateral negotiating forum of the international community in the field of disarmament";

(x) The Committee recommended that the programme narrative of section 4 should be revised in accordance with the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001;

(y) The Committee emphasized the role of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, and its subsidiary bodies, as the single multilateral negotiating forum of the international community in the field of disarmament;

(z) The Committee recognized that the role of the Secretariat was confined to servicing the negotiating bodies within the United Nations;

(aa) The Committee underlined that the role of the Department for Disarmament Affairs should not result in a duplication of activities of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

Conclusions and recommendation

18. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly carefully review the programme narrative for section 4.

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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 5. Peacekeeping operations and special missions

1. At its 29th meeting, on 23 June 1999, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 5, Peacekeeping operations and special missions, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001.

2. The representative of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was given to the activities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. It was agreed that the peacekeeping activities were becoming more complex and were performing various functions. The view was expressed that the Department was carrying out its programme of work effectively and that peacekeeping missions constituted an important mechanism in the maintenance of peace and security. It was stressed, however, that prior to undertaking peacekeeping missions, every effort should be made to seek the early resolution of conflicts through pacific settlement of disputes by the parties concerned through negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. While the need to strengthen regional arrangements was emphasized and cooperation with regional organizations was welcomed, it was pointed out that in undertaking those activities, the Department must strictly follow relevant regulations and

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mandates. The view was expressed that a clear division of labour between different United Nations bodies should be taken into consideration in peacekeeping operations in order to avoid duplication and overlapping.

4. The presentation of the programme narrative was welcomed as it had been formulated with a view to meeting the mandates of Member States. It was noted that the activities contained therein were guided by the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001. It was pointed out, however, that the terminology used could be better formulated and better harmonized with the text of the medium-term plan. Satisfaction was expressed with the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/243 of 15 September 1997 regarding the phasing out of gratis personnel. The view was also expressed that following the phasing out of gratis personnel, the military expertise of the Department should be ensured in the consolidation of the Office of the Military and Civilian Police.

5. Support was given to the restructuring of the Department and the distribution of functions therein in order to respond more effectively to its mandates. Importance was attached to the activities of the Lessons Learned Unit, the Mine Action Service and training. The mergers of the Lessons Learned Unit with the Policy Planning Unit and of the Mine Action Service with the Field Administration and Logistics Division were noted.

6. The view was expressed that activities related to the liquidation of assets, the processing of claims for contingent-owned equipment, the development of safety aspects of mine clearance, as well as other safety standards, should be implemented at the earliest possible date. The need for coordination with other organizations and institutions in the development of security and safety standards and guidelines was stressed.

6 (*bis*) The need to improve contacts with Member States as well as with the media in this area was emphasized.

7. The view was expressed that the Department should continue to assess its work programme and refine those elements which were not effective and/or were not functional, as requested in the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

8. It was pointed out that the description of outputs under subprogramme 2.3 was too detailed, and difficulties arose in reviewing the activities enumerated under the subprogramme. The view was expressed that in the future the listing of outputs should be consolidated.

9. It was noted that while certain activities under the programme were of a permanent nature, those activities continued to be funded on a temporary basis from resources under the support account for peacekeeping operations.

10. Satisfaction was expressed regarding the inclusion of expected accomplishments and the progress achieved so far. The view was also expressed that they were still far too broad and not specific enough. In the context of future programme budget proposals, therefore, the formulation of expected accomplishments should be further refined with a view to facilitating their measurement at the end of the biennium. The view was also expressed that, in some instances, the formulation of expected accomplishments was not feasible for some peacekeeping activities.

11. Support was also given to the two peacekeeping missions funded from the regular budget, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 5, Peacekeeping operations, subject to the following modifications:

(a) In the last sentence of paragraph 5.5, the words "other missions" should be replaced with "good offices, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and humanitarian missions";

(b) In the beginning of paragraph 5.6, the following text should be inserted:

"Every effort will be made to seek the early resolution of conflicts through pacific settlement of disputes by the parties concerned through negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means in accordance with the Charter. However, peacekeeping will be one of the key instruments available to the United Nations to resolve conflicts and to maintain international peace and security."

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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 6. Peaceful uses of outer space

1. At its 28th meeting, on 22 June 1999, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 6, Peaceful use of outer space, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (A/54/6 (Sect. 6)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the activities undertaken by the Office for Outer Space Affairs. It was noted that the activities in space technology served as an important tool for developing countries in the areas of remote sensing, telecommunications and meteorology. It was also noted with appreciation that the programme of activities of the section was implemented efficiently and effectively by the Office of Outer Space Affairs.

4. The view was expressed that the description of expected accomplishments should be refined to ensure that they are measurable.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 6, Peaceful use of outer space, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001, subject to the inclusion of the words "and sustained

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economic growth", at the end of the penultimate sentence of paragraph 6.4, and after the words "sustainable development" in the first sentence of paragraph 6.5.

6. In the light of the limited number of staff, the Committee appreciated the activities of the Office of Outer Space Affairs in the preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 8. Legal affairs

1. At its 33rd and 34th meetings, on 24 June 1999, the Committee considered section 8, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001.[1]

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Members expressed support for the programme and expressed appreciation for the approach used in the preparation of the overview of the programme budget fascicle for legal affairs, which provided a succinct and clear summary of the subprogrammes and the required resources.

4. It was stressed that particular attention should be given to the study, teaching, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law and that an adequate level of resources should be allocated to that end, in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 52/152 of 15 December 1997. In that connection it was noted that, while the use of electronic media for the dissemination of materials on international law was commendable, account must be taken of the needs of developing countries which might not have easy access to such media. A view was expressed that emphasis should be placed upon the continued issuance of printed materials, which should be disseminated widely. It was also emphasized that efforts should be made to ensure that publications of the Office

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of Legal Affairs were not limited to the English language and that they were made available in other languages of the United Nations.

5. Emphasis was also placed upon the fellowship programmes under subprogrammes 3 and 4. It was also stressed that such programmes should be strengthened.

6. Appreciation was expressed for the actions undertaken by the Office of Legal Affairs to reduce the backlog in the publication of the United Nations *Treaty Series* and to expedite the preparation and publication of *Supplements* to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*.

7. It was noted that the Office of Legal Affairs provided legal services to other offices of the Organization with respect to work that might have legal implications for the Organization and in that connection it was noted that the Office had the responsibility for protecting the legal integrity of the United Nations.

8. Views were expressed indicating appreciation for the inclusion of the paragraphs on expected accomplishments. However, it was pointed out that in some cases there was no clear distinction between accomplishments, activities and targets. It was observed that expected accomplishments should be formulated in a way that would facilitate the measurement of the subsequent degree of attainment. It was also pointed out that the formulation of expected accomplishments was not feasible for some of the activities implemented by the Office of Legal Affairs.

9. The exclusion from the Committee's agenda of work of section 7, International Court of Justice, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 was noted. The view was expressed that the requirements detailed by the International Court in paragraphs 38 to 43 of its report[2] submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/161 of 15 December 1997 should have been included in section 7 of the programme budget. Reference was made to paragraph 127 of the report of the Committee on its thirty-first session[3] and it was recalled that since that time the proposed programme budget for the International Court of Justice had not been included for consideration by the Committee. A view was expressed that only the Committee itself had the authority to determine what items ought to be included in its agenda. In that connection it was pointed out that the Committee, at its organizational session in March 1999, had approved the inclusion of section 7 in its agenda.

Conclusion and recommendation

10. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 8, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001.

Notes

[1] A/54/6 (Sect. 8).

[2] A/53/326.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/46/16).

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Juichi **Takahara** (Japan)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 9. Economic and social affairs

1. At its 23rd and 24th meetings, on 21 June 1999, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (A/54/6 (Sect. 9)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration thereof.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for this programme, the overall orientation of which is to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the promotion of international cooperation for development. Its key role in the promotion of the development of the developing countries and in providing support to the intergovernmental processes in the economic and social fields was recognized.

4. The view was expressed that the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is to assist Member States at their request and in accordance with their national policies aimed at the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

5. The view was expressed that poverty alleviation, gender mainstreaming and the advancement of women should be considered as priority activities. The view was also expressed that particular attention should be paid to the special needs of Africa and least

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developed countries, small island developing States, South-South cooperation and financing for development.

5. The view was expressed that the narrative on expected accomplishments needed further refinement in order to ascertain achievement or otherwise. The view was also expressed that programme managers needed to implement more fully the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, which require self-evaluation and identification of activities which are inefficient, ineffective or irrelevant. The view was expressed that the formulation of expected accomplishments was not feasible for some activities dealing with economic and social affairs.

6. Concern was expressed about the decline in extrabudgetary resources and the negative effect that such reductions might have on the implementation of activities. It was stressed that the estimates of extrabudgetary resources under the Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action for the biennium 2000–2001 should be higher than in the biennium 1998–1999. The view was expressed that every effort should be made to implement all the activities under subprogramme 2, Gender issues and advancement of women. The view was also expressed that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs should implement all the activities included in its programme of work.

7. The view was expressed that the activities of subprogramme 2 should lead to improvement of the status of women in the United Nations Secretariat by ensuring the upward mobility of women in the General Service staff category, irrespective of nationality, through the competitive examinations for promotion to the Professional category of staff members from other categories ("G to P exams"). The view was also expressed that the objective of 50/50 gender distribution by the year 2000 should be reflected in paragraph 9.66 of the section. It was suggested that gender issues should be incorporated into all programmes of the United Nations system and that subprogramme 2 should become a programme, since the subject was broad.

8. The view was expressed with concern that, after the streamlining of the Secretariat in the context of the reform, the new Department of Economic and Social Affairs should have benefited from more extrabudgetary resources, instead of experiencing a decline.

9. The view was expressed that the narrative dealing with inter-agency affairs, under Executive direction and management, needed to be elaborated further.

10. The view was expressed on the need for more cooperation between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and United Nations funds and programmes in carrying out South-South cooperation activities.

11. It was noted that, in a number of cases, activities had been proposed without proper mandates and that, in other cases, the proposed activities did not appear to cover the issues in all their aspects.

12. The view was expressed that there was a need to maintain strong interlinkages between the subprogrammes of section 9, to enable the intergovernmental processes to address the economic and social issues, in particular, cross-cutting issues, in an integrated manner.

13. The view was expressed that activities related to the implementation of the world solar programme 1996–2005 should be included in the programme of work of the section.

14. While the emphasis in the narrative on electronic dissemination of publications was noted, it was stressed that the Department should continue to use traditional means of dissemination for the benefit of those not in a position to use electronic means.

15. It was noted that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997, the regular budget of the United Nations ceased financing the activities of the Interim Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa on 31 December 1998 and that, as from 1 January 1999, the activities of the Permanent Secretariat were funded exclusively through assessed contributions of the parties to the Convention and other extrabudgetary resources.

16. The view was expressed that, in the context of the preparations for the 2000 Millennium Assembly, the United Nations should initiate partnership relationships with major religious institutions for a close cooperation in finding solutions to some important economic and social problems of the world. The view was expressed that the non-governmental organizations and other institutions have their own process of preparation for the 2000 Millennium Assembly.

17. The view was expressed that the activities related to economic coercive measures imposed on developing countries, included in subprogramme 8, Public Administration, finance and development, should be moved to subprogramme 7, Global development trends, issues and policies.

18. The view was expressed that, given the significant increased workload and the level of responsibility of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat, it should have all the required resources in order to enable it to carry out efficiently its mandate, in particular to support substantively the Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations.

Conclusions and recommendations

19. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001, subject to the following modifications:

(a) In the penultimate sentence of paragraph 9.4, the word "landlocked" should be inserted after the words "least developed countries", and this change should be reflected throughout the entire narrative of section 9, wherever reference is made to "least developed countries and small island developing States";

(b) In paragraph 9.58, line 4, after the phrase "in particular its Second Committee, and," the words "as appropriate" should be deleted;

(c) In paragraph 9.98, line 6, after the phrase "Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session (resolution S-19/2)," the phrase "the resolution endorsing the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 as a contribution to the overall sustainable development agenda, adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session (resolution 53/7)," should be inserted;

(d) Add a paragraph 9.103 *bis* as follows:

"9.103 *bis*. In compliance with General Assembly resolution 53/7 of 16 October 1998, concrete action will be undertaken by the Secretary-General in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other relevant organizations to ensure that the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 is fully integrated and brought into the mainstream of the efforts of the United Nations system to attain the objective of sustained economic growth and sustainable development.";

(e) In paragraphs 9.105 (a) (v), 9.105 (b) (iii), 9.105 (d) (i) and 9.107, after the phrase "integrated water resources management" the words "and development" should be inserted and this change should be reflected throughout the entire narrative of section 9, wherever reference is made to "integrated water resources management".

20. The Committee noted the increasing workload and responsibilities of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, which prevented it from carrying out its activities efficiently, effectively and expeditiously, and welcomed the proposal to strengthen this activity by allocating adequate resources in the proposed programme budget.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Juichi **Takahara** (Japan)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 10. Africa: New Agenda for Development

1. At its 25th meeting, on 21 June 1999, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 10, Africa: New Agenda for Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (A/54/6 (Sect. 10)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. The priority assigned to the development of Africa by the General Assembly was reaffirmed and support was expressed for the programme. It was proposed that the Cairo Agenda for Action: Relaunching Africa's Economic and Social Development,[1] which states Africa's development priorities, should be cited in the programme budget document. It was suggested that recent mandates, such as General Assembly resolutions 53/90 of 7 December 1998 on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and 53/92 of 7 December 1998 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa should also be referred to in the narrative of the section.

4. The view was expressed that the programme should be more operationally oriented and should comprise tangible actions towards improving the situation in Africa. In this connection, it was observed that available resources should primarily benefit activities taking place in the field.

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5. It was, however, emphasized that the programme was not designed to implement programmes and operational activities for African development, but rather to be a catalyst and coordinate and promote activities undertaken by other programmes and entities directly responsible for such activities. It was recalled that the programme was to play an advocacy role to ensure that the issues related to African development remained on the agenda within the United Nations system and the international community.

6. It was felt that the resources for the programme should be increased. The view was expressed that better balance in terms of resources should be provided between the subprogrammes. The view was also expressed that the value added of the programme was minimal and, as a result, the proposed increase in the resources could not be supported.

7. Concern was expressed regarding the possible overlap and duplication between the activities of the three subprogrammes and between the subprogrammes and those of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-based secretariat of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa for the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. The view was expressed that the resources and activities of the programme were too scattered, hence better focus for the programme and its activities was required. It was observed that the relevant units in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Public Information, responsible respectively for subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3, had made particular efforts not only to coordinate the activities proposed in the three subprogrammes, but also to coordinate the activities with the activities of other units concerned. As a result, it was felt that duplication or overlap of activities had been averted.

8. It was noted with concern that the decline in the availability of extrabudgetary resources under the section would affect adversely the implementation of the programme of activities. It was observed that the number of posts funded from extrabudgetary resources was expected to be reduced and that increased regular budget resources would be needed to ensure that the mandated activities under the programme would be implemented.

9. It was considered that the expected accomplishments should be more precisely described so as to allow measurement of the extent to which they had been achieved. The view was expressed that programme managers needed to implement more fully the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, which require self-evaluation and identification of activities that are inefficient, ineffective or irrelevant. The view was also expressed that the formulation of expected accomplishments was not feasible for some activities dealing with economic and social affairs.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 10, Africa: New Agenda for Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 with the following modifications:

(a) At the end of the third sentence of paragraph 10.2 the words "in accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/90 of 7 December 1998 and in the context of the Cairo Agenda for Action: Relaunching Africa's Economic and Social Development" should be added;

(b) At the end of paragraph 10.2 a new sentence should be added, reading:

"In its resolution 53/92 of 7 December 1998, the General Assembly welcomed the recommendations of the Secretary-General and requested him to submit a

progress report on the implementation of the recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session".

11. The Committee noted the coordination efforts among the various entities for the implementation of this subprogramme and encouraged the continuation of those efforts.

Notes

[1] See A/50/647, annex II, resolution AHG/Res. 236 (xxxi), annex.